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TheHighlander

Thursday **January 16 2025** | Issue 672

INSIDE: MEET CANADIAN TIRE'S NEW OWNER PAGE 10 **FREE**

County resident Carey Durant is in Hong Kong, where he's the head coach of the mens' national hockey program. *Submitted.*

Scoring a dream job in Asia

By Mike Baker

While Carey Durant's regular nine-to-five sees him keeping the Haliburton Highlands OPP office in Minden in good working order, the civilian staffer has taken a year-long leave of absence to chase every hockey-loving Canadian's dream on the other side of the world.

The Minden resident has been in Hong Kong since September, where he scored the job of his dreams – heading up the country's national hockey program.

Durant will lead the country, ranked 49th in the world, into the Asian Winter Games in February, while also preparing for the 2026 Winter Olympics.

So, how does a custodian from rural Ontario with coaching, scouting and consulting gigs in minor, college and major junior hockey score a job on the international circuit? Durant said it's an opportunity he unknowingly cultivated through relationships he made in the GTA in the 80s and 90s.

Continued **'Durant'** on page 2

Time to pass the Highland Yard baton

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County's iconic Highland Yard fundraising race is looking for a new home.

Places for People (P4P) announced last week it is relinquishing the charitable event.

With the help of past board member, and avid runner, Jack Russel, P4P took over the Highland Yard in 2012, going on to raise more than $200,000 for the housing charity.

However, COVID delivered a punch, forcing organizers to go to virtual events for three years. Rotaract had a crack at organizing the 2023 race, but found it to be a lot of work for little return.

P4P spokesperson, Susan Tromanhauser, said, "unfortunately, as happens, people get older and the usual support of the race for P4P has changed."

She added, "the current board does not really see the link between running and housing and to be honest, we don't have the capacity to do what we do and organize a running event."

In recent years, P4P has focused on its Sleeping in Cars fundraiser, with the next one slated for March 21 at Head Lake Park's welcome centre.

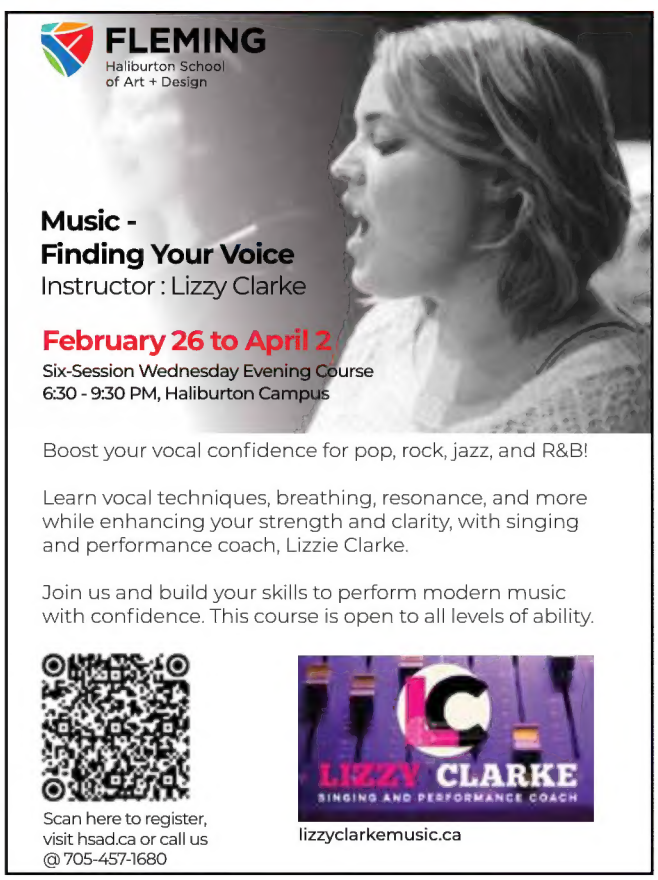
"So, the bottom line is, Places for People is looking for a new home for the Highland Yard. We don't want to just end it as it is a Haliburton County tradition for 50-plus years and we are sure there must be some organization that could benefit from taking it on," Tromanhauser said.

She added they have a lot of swag and other items they would be willing to pass on to a new organizer.

Russel is synonymous with the Highland Yard.

He recalls how it started with two Camp Onondaga staff challenging themselves to run from the camp to the Rockcliffe in 1971; a distance of 7.4 km. It became a community event in 1976. There have been numerous sponsors over the years until it landed with P4P.

Continued **'Jack'** on page 3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Durant 'fell in love' with coaching

Continued from page 1

A once promising prospect, Durant grew up playing in the Scarborough Hockey Association. While he had opportunities to play junior hockey, a lack of support at home meant he often chose work over play. After enrolling at Ryerson University, now Toronto Metropolitan University, Durant earned a spot on the school's hockey team. He played a single season in 1988/89 before dropping out.

"I was trying to play, go to school and pay for everything on my own. It was impossible, so I decided to leave school," Durant said.

He attended a Boston Bruins free agent camp in 1990. Though he wasn't signed, Durant did enough to earn a contract offer from the Los Angeles Kings, who wanted to send the young forward to its East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) affiliate.

At that time, minor leaguers weren't paid a lot of money. He was working construction and earning well. Wanting to settle down and start a family, Durant declined, closing the book on his hockey career at 22 – or so he thought.

He picked up coaching a few months later – starting with the Toronto Red Wings in the Metro Toronto Hockey League (now the Greater Toronto Hockey League). He "fell in love" with being a bench boss, working with several different teams before landing with the Bramalea Blues for the 1998/99 season. Led by future NHLers Mike Cammalleri and Steven Eminger, the Blues won a provincial Jr. A championship.

Durant was an assistant, working alongside Lindsay Hofford – who coached the London Knights in the Ontario Hockey League and Lethbridge Hurricanes in the Western Hockey League, scouted for the Toronto Maple Leafs and was assistant general manager of the Arizona Coyotes (now Utah Hockey Club) – and Sudarshan Maharaj, a longtime goaltending coach with the Anaheim Ducks.

He also refers to Red Berenson, a player with the Montreal Canadiens, New York Rangers, St. Louis Blues and Detroit Red Wings - and Blues coach, who won the Jack Adams Award for best coach in the National Hockey League in 1981 - as his "hockey godfather". The two worked closely for 17 years on player analysis at the University of Michigan.

Durant stays in touch with them, and another contact from his earlier years, Davis Yoo, the parent of a player he coached. Yoo is a South Korean national with contacts on the continent. When the Hong Kong position opened, Yoo encouraged Durant to apply. He set up a meeting between Durant and Sherman Chan, the chairman of the Hong Kong Ice Hockey Association last summer and the two hit it off.

> *"I've got to be the luckiest guy on the planet - this is about growing something, making a difference."*
> ***Carey Durant***

Living his best life

After fighting - and beating - Stage 4 prostate cancer following a November 2022 diagnosis, Durant said he's reinvigorated, wanting to live his best life.

"Everything is a journey - this is just my next chapter. Hong Kong is not known for hockey, but it's growing. They want to bring a professional league here," Durant said. "My goal is to bring Hong Kong to the next level in all areas. I'm here for a year now… but I might get the opportunity to coach in the Olympics in the future."

On top of coaching the mens' program, Durant also serves as head of development for the womens' and U18, U15, U14, and U11 teams. After spending the past 20 years involved in scouting and player development in the OHL, helping to unearth and mould the likes of Corey Perry, Ryan Callahan, Andrew Cogliano, and Zach Hyman, Durant hopes to help up-and-coming Asian players make their way in the game.

He estimates there's about 1,000 people playing the sport across all age levels. When he arrived there was no player database, and very few scouting reports. With a shallow local talent pool, Durant said he's been tracking U.S. and Canadian-born players eligible to represent Hong Kong.

It's been hard adjusting to life away from wife, Lori, who has remained in Minden. But Durant knows this position has a shelf life, so is giving it his all while he has the chance.

"I've got to be the luckiest guy on the planet - this is about growing something, making a difference. Going to the Asian Winter Games, it's all about the experience, helping players see how important this is. We're going to play some top teams in that tournament. I'm trying to get a bunch of guys to believe in themselves and show they do belong at this level," Durant said.

Whether he's home in six months, or in a year, Durant said he's already racked up a lifetime of new experiences in Hong Kong. While settled in Minden, he admits to being intrigued about the doors his latest dalliance with the sport he loves may open.

"My goal was to become a professional hockey coach - I can say I've done that now. When I come back there might be another journey ahead of me. It could be in Ontario; it could be in our hometown - I have no idea. That's the beauty of it. There is no plan. I'm just taking life one day at a time."

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Dysart approves 4.64 per cent tax increase

By Mike Baker

After Dysart et al council rubber stamped its 2025 budget Jan. 10, implementing a 4.64 per cent levy increase for ratepayers, mayor Murray Fearrey said he felt the township's elected officials had done a good job of tightening the belt for the year ahead.

Operational costs are slated to rise about 9.5 per cent this year, up to $18.8 million from $17.2 million in 2024, while capital expenditures increased about 11.3 per cent - $8.1 million this year compared to almost $7.3 million last year.

The end result is an increase of approximately $15.61 per $100,000 of assessment for residential ratepayers, $23.14 for commercial, and $26.81 for industrial.

"I'd say this budget is needs' only - with the way costs have increased, we're starting behind the eight ball before we've even started to talk priorities," Fearrey told *The Highlander* following the meeting. "Considering where we started, I'm happy. Nobody wants to see an increase in these times, but it's just unavoidable with the cost of everything. With having to replace equipment, taking on new contracts - some of those expenses are 50 per cent more than they were even two years ago. It's hard to deal with."

According to the Bank of Canada, inflation has gone up 16.91 per cent since 2020. Fearrey said that's largely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While things have cooled over the past 12 months, the mayor said the township is seeing little reprieve.

One answer, he suggested, would be for the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to update its home valuations for the first time in almost a decade. People's tax bills are calculated using assessed property values and multiplying it by the combined municipal and education tax rates.

The last update was in 2016, when the typical home in Haliburton was assessed at $193,000. According to the Lakeland Association of Realtors, average property values had climbed to $589,438 by December 2024 - a 205 per cent increase.

Fearrey said when homes are reassessed, he anticipates the municipality's mill rate will drop, so while the township will see some additional money, the main benefit, he believes, will be seeing ratepayers living in new builds taxed more fairly.

"Anybody who has built in the last three years, their assessments are much higher than those who had assessments done eight, nine years ago," said Fearrey, who himself lives in a recently-constructed home on Gelert Road. "There's a huge disparity between what some of our residents are paying. It's really quite unfair."

There was 2.1 per cent of assessment growth last year - meaning new properties entering the tax stream, bringing in an additional $251,000.

Where the money goes

Approximately 46 per cent of the budget, or $12.3 million, is earmarked for transportation costs.

Dysart is investing approximately $1.75 million rehabilitating portions of Redkenn, Watts, Illman and Irish Line roads, Mountain Street, Halbiem Crescent and sidewalks in the downtown in 2025, while it's spending just under $3.5 million replacing the Redstone Brook Bridge, Barry's Bridge, and the Head Lake Park footbridge. A further $1.4 million is being put into the municipal fleet for two new tandem truck and plows, a one-ton truck and plow, a backhoe loader, and FEL mounted snowblower.

Council also dedicated $100,000 to complete various surveys required for development at its 92-acre County Road 21 property and $280,000 for engineering and design work on the expansion of the sewage treatment plant.

Protective services come in at 16 per cent, with costs of $4.6 million - up around $700,000 from last year. Much of that is driven by a 20 per cent increase in policing costs, said treasurer Barb Swannell, and relates to a new ratified OPP contract signed last year. She said the township is receiving $365,000 in one-time funding from the province to mitigate the increase.

Environmental services are expected to cost $4.2 million (15 per cent), recreation and culture $2.6 million (9.7 per cent), general government $2.5 million (9.3 per cent), planning and development $794,000 (2.9 per cent), health services $191,000 (0.7 per cent), and social and family services $27,000 (0.1 per cent).

Municipal reserves and reserve funds are healthy, Fearrey said, with about $10.4 million in the bank. The township is taking on $4.37 million in new debt this year, taking its total liabilities to just over $7.3 million. Swannell said the township has a remaining debt capacity of 74.3 per cent, with a projected annual repayment of $805,237 this year. She said the municipality is permitted to service up to $3.1 million annually.

"I'm not worried about the debt - overall, I think the township is not in bad shape," Fearrey added.

The budget will be presented for final approval Jan. 28.

Jack Russel: 'I hope we can find a new home for it'

Continued from page 1

Lamenting no race in 2024, and P4P stepping away for 2025, Russel told *The Highlander* this week, "it is sad to see that a race of this nature is not being offered. There are a lot of people who always look forward to it and some of them would plan their holidays around it if they were at the cottage or on the lake when the race was offered."

He's been wracking his brain about who could take it over. "Who would be a good candidate? A sporting club… a sports store? I'm just not sure."

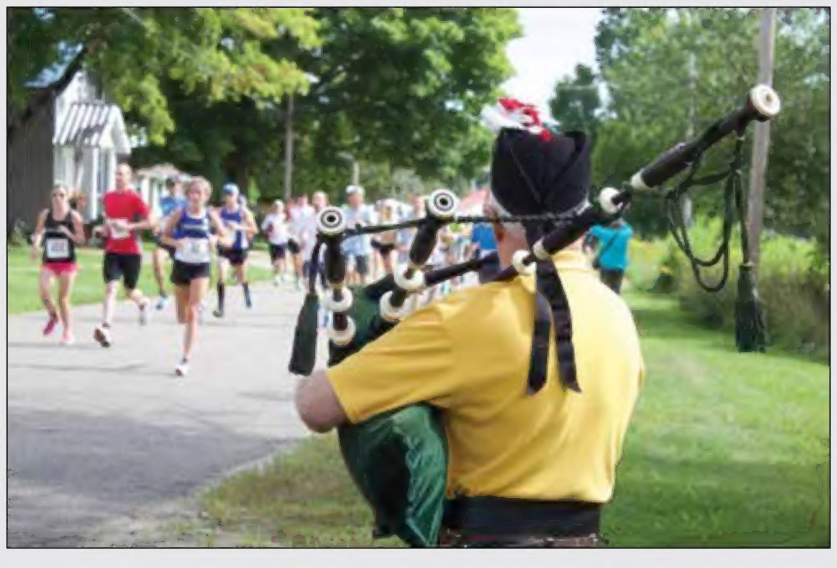
He said it takes a lot of volunteers on race day. "And I think it takes a good cause. Places for People was a good cause and people got behind that and supported that and could raise money for that easily.

"Someone might be interested in taking it on, or someone might be interested in all the stuff P4P has acquired from running the race over the years.

"It's always sad to see things not continued that are good traditions and good events and are healthy events for people. For the community to wrap itself around this as an engaging activity, it was wonderful for families to do this, and families enjoyed running the Highland Yard.

"I hope we can find a new home for it. I hope Places for People can find a new home for it… a good group that's willing to take this on and use all the equipment that was purchased over the years. There must be 100 traffic cones."

If anyone is interested, contact Tromanhauser at susan.tromanhauser@gmail.com.



It was always tradition for a bagpiper to send off the Highland Yard runners. *File*.

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COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Danielsen deputy warden

Coun. Liz Danielsen was elected deputy warden Jan. 8 - defeating coun. Bob Carter.

In her pitch, Danielsen said, "I've worked closely with warden (Dave) Burton for a number of years now. We stay in very close contact, and as deputy warden, he stayed in close contact with me as the warden. I'd like to continue that working relationship."

Danielsen ended a six-year term as warden in December, with Burton being elected. Danielsen added in her plea to colleagues, "given the time I spent as warden of Haliburton County, I think I'm probably uniquely positioned to support him in any way that he would like my support."

Carter, who was defeated by Burton, had been seeking the number two job.

"Traditionally, we really haven't had a significant role for the deputy warden, certainly not in my few years here on council," he said.

"But there are some things that possibly the deputy warden could help the warden with. I fully intend to run for warden next year and I think that - as the deputy warden - it would give me the opportunity to learn a little bit more and understand the role a little bit better."

New director of EMS

Burton welcomed Michael Slatter as chief/director of emergency medical services (EMS) of the County of Haliburton Paramedic Service. He is replacing outgoing chief Tim Waite.

The County said Slatter is a recipient of the Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, and has more than 30 years of emergency healthcare experience, including a decade of senior leadership experience as Deputy Chief of Education and Professional Standards in Hastings County.

"Mike has extensive knowledge of regulatory compliance, quality improvement initiatives, strategic planning, and developing impactful community paramedicine and mental health programs, including recognition as a Community Champion for Mental Health," Burton said.

He added Slatter's experience and education will be an asset as the County continues to enhance the paramedic programs and services offered to residents.

Slatter's first day with the County will be Feb. 3. *(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*

Liz Danielsen has been voted in as deputy warden. *File.*

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Fireworks debated

Algonquin Highlands council is leaning towards limiting the use of fireworks to Canada Day only in the township, with a discussion Dec. 12 about setting up a permit system for those that want to set them off.

Results from a months-long survey asking the public for their thoughts on the pyrotechnics showed 61.3 per cent (423) of 690 respondents were in favour of a complete ban. Environmental manager, Melissa Murray, noted 35.8 per cent (247) supported their use, while 2.9 per cent (20) were unsure.

Currently, fireworks are permitted on Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Eve, Civic Holiday, and Labour Day.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux said she was in favour of a total ban, noting fireworks pose a danger to migrating and nesting birds while also fearful of the chemicals they leave behind.

CAO Angie Bird said, if moving ahead with a wider ban and permit system, staff will need to know who is responsible for handling that process and any inspections. Coun. Sabrina Richards suggested the fire department would be best.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said the township will have to come up with a way to enforce the new rules, asking staff to bring a report to a future meeting on how to best handle the transition. No motion was made to implement new rules.

Not no, just not yet

Council has shelved plans to apply for 50/50 provincial funding to construct a new multi-use playing court in Stanhope.

Chris Card – the township's parks, recreation and trails manager – said the quoted cost is $262,050, which the township would split with the Ontario government. He said staff have also requested estimates for courts in Dorset and Oxtongue Lake. If approved, because Algonquin Highlands is a small community, it could apply for up to 70 per cent of project costs.

Dailloux wanted to do some public consultation to get an idea for demand, but coun. Lisa Barry felt this was a want the township couldn't afford given anticipated 2025 budget demands.

Danielsen said she had a hard time supporting this without knowing what the budget looks like. The document will be presented to council Feb. 27 and 28.

"I think we're going to get some shock from possible increases in the budget," Danielsen said. *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker).*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- January 16 - Special Meeting
- January 30 - Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

MINDEN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- The Minden Hills Community Services Department has a new program schedule for drop-in programming. Check out the schedule online or at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
- Join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena for a drop-in self guided snowshoe around the building and Minden Fairgrounds. Register and pick up snowshoes at the Arena Administration Desk.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Artwork from the Gallery's permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952) as well as new acquisitions from local artists, are now on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00am – 4:00pm.
- Join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a Special Screening of *Dear Audrey* (2021) at the Cultural Centre on January 16 at 1:00pm. Directed by Jeremiah Hayes, this documentary follows acclaimed filmmaker Martin Duckworth as he cares for his wife, Audrey Schirmer, through the final stages of Alzheimer's disease. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).
- The UFO Craft Group will be meeting at the Cultural Centre on January 17 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025 during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

Proposed changes are included in the following Schedules and will be available on our website:

- Schedule A Building – simplified wording for building permit minimum fee
- Schedule B Administration
- Schedule C Fire
- Schedule D Cultural Centre Programs and Facilities
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule I Water, Sewer, and Landfill

Members of the public wishing to **participate may attend in-person or join electronically** and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law. Registration is required for electronic participants. Please email admin@mindenhills.ca.

TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

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TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

County CAOs hope to 'resurrect' review

By Lisa Gervais

CAO Gary Dyke wants to take a deep dive into the service delivery review. *File*.

County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke said he was working with the heads of Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills, to "reinvigorate" the service delivery review in 2025.

The consultant's report was delivered to County council in November, 2020. There has been some movement – such as hiring an economic development and tourism manager, and joint purchasing – however much of what Strategy Corp. recommended has not come about.

Dyke told councillors Dec. 11 senior staff had been modifying the recommendations "because I think there were reasons why it (the process) did bog down. I think we can resurrect it." However, he said there would be no impact on budgets until 2026 at the earliest.

He committed to, "diving back into, and having a solid relook, at how we deliver services and where we can find both efficiencies and cost savings at the same time."

Commenting on Coun. Bob Carter discussing affordability for Highlanders, Dyke added, "that's definitely something we're working towards." Carter said he thought there could be efficiencies when it comes to things such as having five roads' departments in the Highlands.

Coun. Liz Danielsen said, "I agree there could probably be some savings there, but it needs to be worked on, and we need to agree as a council. There're not just five roads' departments, there's five planning departments, there's five building departments, there's so many areas where we could, if we were willing to, simplify things, to streamline things into reduced costs. That's going to take some time. I would just urge all members of council to really think about the benefits of looking again at our opportunities and service delivery elsewhere."

'Everybody's backyard is going to get changed'

Coun. Cec Ryall told his colleagues, "you've got to buy into the fact that everybody's backyard is going to get changed, and if you're not prepared to let that happen, then there's the budget. Suck it up."

Coun. Lisa Schell said she had been sitting at the council table for several years, "and when we first started talking about service delivery review and the 'A' word (amalgamation), many members of council at that time weren't interested in actually getting there. It's changed around the table as we've seen some of the savings that can be made within the departments. I think it's time that we really, really take a hard look at what that would possibly look like in another term of council. Because some term of council is either going to have to do it or say 'no, this isn't going to work'. And I think we've made strides in the last two terms of council to realize that it actually makes sense."

Coun. Walt McKechnie said he is all for saving money "but show me a County where amalgamation has happened and you're saving money? I want us to work together, whether it's roads, any of our departments together, to save money."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux agreed but added, "I'm still in favour of seeing if we could do it better here in Haliburton. I still wonder if there is a model that could work for us, could work for our four municipalities, and could save us all money. I'm in favour of the idea in principle."

Danielsen said when they first started talking about amalgamation, she had concerns, but her thinking has shifted. While "still not there" when it comes to amalgamation, she said, "I believe now that the best direction for us to take is to look at the service delivery review that we've had done, see where we can have some successes, and savings, because I do believe there's room for that without us getting all worried about amalgamation."

Carter added, "we have a little over 20,000 residents in Haliburton County and we have 24 elected officials. And if we take this body (County council), it's 32 elected officials. We spend an awful lot of time on administration, for an awful lot of money, and having all of these meetings and discussions between the various councils. There has to be a penny or two to be saved at that point. I'm just looking at working together."

He said the County made a good budget decision in hiring an in-house mechanic rather than going to an outsider. He questioned the need for a council chamber for Minden Hills when the County one is just up the road. "Is there a reason why Minden and the County couldn't share a council chamber since there's only two meetings per month? There are an awful lot of places where we can look at things differently, reimagine things…"

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Minden Hills to get new kids' summer camp

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council has been asked to approve a zoning bylaw amendment to pave the way for St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club to build a children's camp on Howland Lake.

Township planner, Amanda Dougherty, at a Dec. 12 council meeting, said the site is at 5373 County Road 121.

The application was submitted by Duncan Ross Architects and Markham Planning Associates, on behalf of the club's Chris Foster.

Dougherty said that historically, the property was operated as a camp, primarily through the 1960s and 1970s with a dining hall and 10 cabins. She said the club acquired the property in 2018. They demolished the cabins, which were in bad shape. They did minor renovations to the dining hall and constructed and repaired two docks.

Dougherty said they now want to reinstate a children's overnight camp in the summer for up to 150 staff and campers per day. They aim to renovate and maintain the dining hall and will lodge campers in three cabins.

They are also planning buildings for arts and drama, a ropes' course, trails and sports playing field and canoeing, swimming and fishing.

Dougherty said they plan to phase the development, starting with one cabin.

The planner said the application was not 100 per cent complete, but the rezoning would not encroach on wetlands, the septic system will be built to accommodate maximum capacity, they will get a permit for a small drinking water system from the health unit, and entry should be fine.

"Once all comments have been satisfied, a subsequent report will be brought forward to council with a complete planning analysis," Dougherty said.

Speaking for the executive director of the club, Chris Boswell, Melissa Markham said the land is about 232 acres and they want to rezone about 40 acres. She said it would be serviced by private water and sewer. She added they were seeking a reduced parking rate in accordance with a submitted traffic impact study. The application proposes to reduce the parking requirement from 58 to 20. They estimated six buses arriving once a week with 20 parking spaces allowing for temporary delivery, and parking and short-term parking for parents or guardians.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she supported anything that brings youth to the area. Referencing the plans, she added, "this is going to be quite extensive. It's really exciting to see."

The club was founded by Toronto police inspector W.H. (Bill) Bolton in 1949. The club began with 25 boys in the basement of St. Alban's Parish Hall.

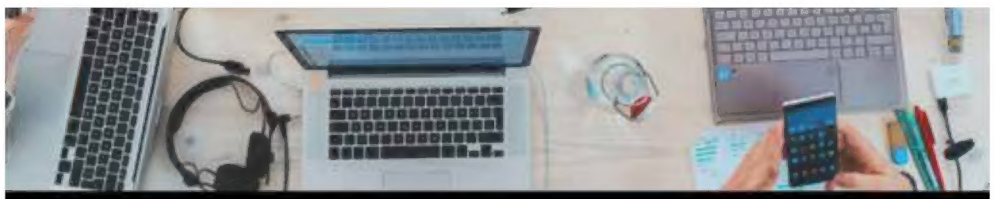
During the late 1950s, the club's membership expanded to 300 boys and beyond the capacity of the parish hall. On Oct. 17, 1961 the new club at 843 Palmerston Ave. was opened. That same year, St. Alban's was accepted as a member agency of the United Way of Greater Toronto. In 1978, the club was renamed St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club.

The new swim dock at St. Albans Boys and Girls Club on Howland Lake. *Submitted.*

In 1999, St. Alban's merged with Jane and Finch Boys and Girls Club. With the successful outreach model they continued to grow to offer children and youth programs in multiple locations in the Jane and Finch, Weston-Mount Dennis, Lawrence Heights, and Bathurst and Dupont communities.

In 2013, the club opened their next generation building project – The Jane and Finch Boys and Girls Club Youth Centre.

According to their website, "a long-time dream of the club staff and leadership was realized when we purchased a campground on Howland Lake in Minden Hills in 2018. We have a long way to go to get it ready for campers, but we are so excited about the journey. We will keep you posted about our progress."



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The township office is part of $47 million in facilities. *File*.

Minden gets handle on assets

By Lisa Gervais

If Minden Hills had to replace all of its assets, they'd be worth nearly $307 million, consultants Watson & Associate Economists Ltd. told council Jan. 9.

In a report to last week's council meeting, they said transportation assets are the biggest ticket items, at $205 million. That includes more than 270 kilometres of roads; 14 vehicle bridges, three footbridges, and one structural culvert.

That's followed by facilities at nearly $47 million, and includes 26 structures (excluding water and wastewater), such as the municipal office, public works facilities, the arena, fire hall and others.

Next up is wastewater assets of $28.4 million; and water assets of more than $18 million. That includes water and wastewater mains, water and wastewater treatment plants.

Fleet and equipment come in at $8 million, with 35 vehicles, trailers, playground equipment etc.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher said having an updated asset management plan is "a major milestone" for the township.

"We have been without an up-to- date asset management plan for quite some time. This brings us into compliance for our requirements for 2024 and allows us to go after some available funding," she said.

Director of finance, Wendelin Lonergan, added there is still work to be done to be compliant for July 1, 2025. She said the asset management plan would be a living document, "going forward in conjunction with budgeting, not just something that sits on a shelf. It will help with grant funding in the future to highlight where any deficiencies may be in our assets in the township."

Peter Simcisko presented on behalf of Watson and Associate, also providing an assessment of what kind of shape the assets are in.

He said asphalt roads are good, while gravel and surface treatment are fair. Structures are rated as poor for local bridges, but fair for collector bridges, footbridges and culvert.

Water, wastewater, facilities, fleet and equipment are all in fair shape.

Simcisko said that indicates "while the assets are still certainly operational and generally able to meet functional requirements, they are on average reaching the point where replacement or rehabilitation may be needed."

As a result, he suggested the township spend an average of $7.3 million a year over the next 10 years on assets, with the largest chunk being $5.2 million for roads. He noted that is a preliminary estimate and does not reflect proposed levels of service. They'll be working with staff on priorities over the next number of months.

"Ultimately, asset management planning at a very high level comes down to this need to balance a desired or proposed level of service with the costs of both achieving and then maintaining that level of service," Simcisko said. The final asset management plan will be presented to council in June 2025.

Lonergan said a lot of the data is only up to 2021 and there have been investments since then that will be captured in the final report, so the "numbers might look scary at first blush, but this is normal across most municipalities in the province. If we are able to obtain some good grant dollars going forward these numbers will come down quite significantly."

Coun. Pam Sayne said "this does open us up now for grants to get a lot of these things done and I greatly appreciate that we've gotten this far."

"This is a work in progress that will be continuing," Lonergan said.

Greens nominate provincial candidate

Tom Regina has been nominated as the Ontario Greens' candidate for Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock in the upcoming provincial election.

He is a former teacher, community leader, and long-term resident of Haliburton.

"I believe that we need a government willing to put affordable homes, access to healthcare, and the protection of nature, ahead of corporate interests," Regina said.

"We need a provincial government with a real plan to invest in our community and not just big cities like Toronto."

Ontario Greens leader Mike Schreiner added, "folks in Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock deserve a strong advocate to stand up for the places and people they love. Tom is a hard-working community champion and I know he will continue to put people before politics."

Regina worked as a teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and served as head of the arts department before retiring.

He ran in the last provincial election in 2022, garnering 7.1 per cent (3,452) of the votes. The next provincial election is tentatively scheduled to be held on June 4, 2026, although premier Doug Ford has hinted at an earlier date. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Greens' candidate Tom Regina. *File*.

A MESSAGE FROM
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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Waste not, want not

By Lisa Gervais

It's time the County of Haliburton and its four lower-tier municipalities hire someone to oversee elimination of waste - from having five governments and 32 political positions in an area with just over 20,000 residents.

County CAO Gary Dyke told councillors at the last meeting of 2024 he wanted to have a good look at the service delivery review delivered in late 2020, to see if the file could be further advanced.

Good intent, but Dyke has enough to do. No CAO has been able to really crack the recommendations in the review. As such, it has largely occupied the corner of a desk or two. As municipalities grapple with their 2025 budgets, it has become abundantly clear County taxpayers can't afford the way their governments operate anymore. Tax increases are outstripping wage increases. There is too much dipping into reserves and taking on added debt. And the hand is being held out not only by townships and the County, but the school board, province and federal governments, too. Something has to give.

While governments may have little say over how much they must collect, when it comes to local government, it can have a say. Let's look at Minden Hills for example. A consultant just told them they have assets valued at more than $300 million. Collectively, our townships have hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of assets. Are there efficiencies to be had? Of course there are. In what universe does it make sense that Minden Hills meets on Milne Street while the County meets a stone's throw away? Do we really need two council chambers in that town? Of course not.

I get that some would argue you need five council chambers due to the geographic size of the County. However, with virtual meetings remaining the norm, do we really need all of this infrastructure?

We don't. However, while our townships have done a better job in the past four years of playing in the sandbox together, they are still a long way from being efficient.

Take in point Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey talking about developing a new curling club, arena and… gasp… swimming pool on the CR21 site. Once again, we need to look at a project like this from the vantage point of all municipalities. It will take five governments to pay for a swimming pool. We've seen Minden Hills task its ratepayers with its Minden ice palace facility. There was not enough County-wide vision back when that plan was being prepared. We need to ask tough questions. Do we need a new arena in Dysart? Can the needs of our hockey and ice skating community not be met by the current arena, and the ones in Minden and Wilberforce?

For the future of this community, we must finally drive a stake through the parochial hearts of Haliburton and Minden, and to a lesser extent, Wilberforce and Dysart. Our politicians must look beyond their borders. But the only way I see this happening is an impartial staffer who can come in, resurrect the service delivery review, adapt it to what is achievable, and get on with it. I would mandate that person to report back in a year with their suggestions. By then [April 2026 for arguments' sake], we will be heading into a fall municipal election with the hope of voting in some progressive councillors who can finally find the efficiencies that we all so desperately need.

LETTERS

Council salaries

Dear editor,

Regarding the fact that Murray Fearrey is suggesting that council members in Dysart and Haliburton County need a raise. While I totally agree with Murray's comments, there is one solution that Murray and other municipal council members seem to be ignoring, and that is amalgamation.

Amalgamation would reduce the total numbers of mayors, deputy mayors, and council members. The overall savings in political salaries alone would allow for council members to receive a raise.

The boards of education in Haliburton, Muskoka and Kawartha Lakes amalgamated over 20 years ago. While it was difficult initially, it has proven to be much more cost-effective. Savings take several years to materialize, but overall, it was the right decision.

Jim Bradley
Haliburton

Thank a firefighter

Dear editor,

A huge thanks to Dysart firefighters.

They came in the middle of the night between Christmas and New Year's in response to our carbon monoxide scare.

Seven grandkids watched in awe as volunteers put on their oxygen masks and made the house safe. These guys had already been out on a midnight call and just returned to their warm beds when they were roused again by our call at 3 a.m. Their timely and professional response made us recognize how lucky we are to have such a great team here in Haliburton.

Our carbon monoxide alarm detected an unsafe level of CO^2 that could have made our sleeping household very sick. For tips on keeping your families safe, check out the Dysart Fire website or follow them on facebook.com/DysartFire/.

Stay safe this winter and thank a firefighter. We will never forget what true community service looks like.

Janet and Roger Trull
Haliburton

Clarification: Bonnie French of Leaning Left in HKLB was not speaking on behalf of Liberals in last week's story HKLB Liberals envision 'interesting few months.' She said she was speaking for herself, and her group represents various political parties. We apologize for any confusion.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

AND

SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

MAY

Fleming reiterates commitment to Haliburton campus
The Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD) has been spared after parent entity, Fleming College, announced widespread program cuts at its Lindsay and Peterborough campuses. President, Maureen Adamson, confirmed April 24, 2024 that 29 full-time programs are heading for the scrapheap – 16 in Peterborough and 13 in Lindsay, including several renowned geographic information system (GIS) and environmental courses. This comes after months of uncertainty, with Fleming one of dozens of post-secondary institutions impacted by new restrictions on overseas students.

New plan aims to protect, nurture Glebe Park
A new 10-year stewardship plan for Glebe Park has been finalized and will focus on felling dangerous and hazardous trees, maintaining existing trail routes, and upgrading mapping at the 175-acre property. Jim Blake, chair of Dysart's Glebe Park and museum committee and curator of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest – located within the park – told Dysart et al council April 23, 2024 volunteers had been working on the plan since 2019. It replaces a previous strategy that had been in place since 2010.

Jim Blake in the Sculpture Forest.

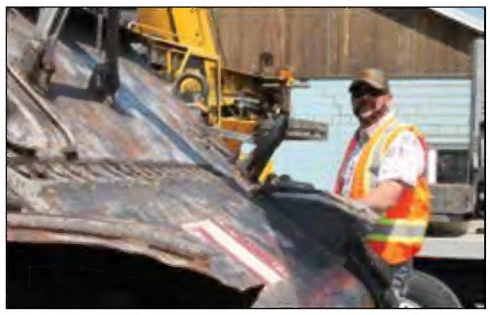
Cell gap project stretches into 2026
It will still be another year before some Haliburton County residents, and visitors, can make and receive phone calls on major roadways, as well as do email, web browsing, social media, video conferencing, movie streaming, and other more data intensive applications. The Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) director of communications, Lisa Severson, updated County council May 8, 2024 on the cell gap project that began in 2021.

45th home and cottage show features artist
For decades, the Haliburton Home and Cottage Show has served as the County's unofficial kick-off for summer and Andy Glecoff, one of the organizers, said this year's 45th annual celebration will be the biggest yet. The show ran for three days, May 31 to June 2, 2024 at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. It featured a who's who of the County's business and service sectors, with 150 vendors registered – including 27 first-time participants. County-based artist David Alexander Risk was the feature guest.

OPP detonate explosives at AH cottage
Cottagers on Comak Crescent in Algonquin Highlands had what would have been an ordinarily quiet summer weekend disrupted as OPP, on May 25, 2024 detonated explosives found inside a summer home. The weekend began when paramedics were called to a cottage just south of the Frost Centre late Friday afternoon. Sources told *The Highlander* Ornge air ambulance was summoned to Haliburton hospital to take a patient who had injured his hand in an explosion at the cottage. OPP on-site May 25 confirmed, "there was an individual who was injured in the area of the property where we're standing now."

JUNE

Tank restoration 'a long time coming'
It wasn't a bird, nor a plane that Haliburton residents saw flying through the air May 22, 2024 – it was an old Second World War-era M4 'Easy Eight' Sherman tank. Around a dozen volunteers from the Haliburton Legion, Total Site Services, and Windy Ridge Homes assisted in moving the tank, which was restored over the summer. Nick Bryant, a long-time member of the legion, said it's been about 15 years since the vintage heavy-armoured vehicle last got an upgrade.


Pat Casey with the Haliburton Legion tank.

Parents pan new bus plan
A group of County moms spoke out in the hopes of reversing a Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) decision to stop busing some students to and from school in Haliburton and Minden. In letters distributed by local principals to parents in April 2024, TLDSB said it had recently completed a review of transportation routes in Haliburton County. It had decided students who live in the villages will no longer be bused. The change impacts one family in Wilberforce and none in Cardiff. The board's policy states elementary-aged students living within 1.6 kilometres of school, and high school students within 3.2 kilometres, aren't eligible to be bused. The rules came into effect in September.

The CT scan has landed
Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CEO Veronica Nelson said June 17, 2024 was a momentous day for the organization, as the new CT scanner arrived at the Haliburton hospital. The machine was made in Germany and transported to Haliburton from Mississauga by Lange Transportation and Storage. Nelson confirmed the machine would be installed as soon as construction of the new CT area was complete. It is now up and running.

Dysart gives 14 acres for new arts centre
After two years of searching, Dan Manley and the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation (HHACF) has secured a prime location for a new performance facility in the community. It was announced June 25, 2024 that Dysart et al is gifting 14 acres along Wonderland Road, near the intersection to County Road 21, to the group. The deal includes a five-year window where HHACF has to prove work is proceeding, or the land will transfer back to the township. "This is a momentous day for anyone involved in, or who enjoys the performing arts in Haliburton County," Manley told *The Highlander.*

JULY

HHHS to balance budget
Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CEO Veronica Nelson expressed confidence in the organization's ability to balance its books by spring 2025. It ended the 2023/24 fiscal year with a $2.3 million operational deficit. Speaking at the HHHS AGM June 27, Nelson said "I'm expecting some additional relief and a good adjustment to our [funding] problem that we've had for several years."

On the picket line
Booze stopped flowing across Haliburton County for 17 days in July as LCBO workers went on strike for the first time in Ontario. Around 9,000 people province-wide walked off the job, with Haliburton LCBO manager, Guy Alaimo, saying workers were advocating for higher pay and greater job security. The strike concluded July 22 after the union representing LCBO workers ratified a new three-year deal that included an eight per cent wage increase and conversion of about 1,000 casual employees into permanent part-time positions.

Park targeted
Haliburton children were feeling a little cheesed after parts of the new playground at Head Lake Park had to be tarped off July 11 after being targeted by vandals. Six solar lights, several no smoking and camera warning signs, an outdoor privy, and gates to the dog park were all damaged, while the new jungle gym and a four-person teeter-totter were also dinged. The playground opened in 2023 and cost approximately $600,000. The culprits remain at large.

Spooner siblings Rhett, Scottie, and Pierce.

One last time
July 9 was an emotional day for many in Wilberforce – and beyond – as St. Margaret's Anglican Church hosted its final service. The parish was a staple in the community for 104 years prior to the ceremonial deconsecration. Sandra and Mark Bramham were two of only five regular attendees before the church closed in March 2020, shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Centennial celebration
It was standing room only at the Haliburton Legion July 14 as the community came together to celebrate the 100th birthday of Cecil Bailey, a veteran of the Second World War. He was a crash tender, shuttling soldiers and equipment to different stations in Europe. While overseas, Bailey saw action in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany – participating in the D-Day landings in Normandy June 6, 1944.

Former mayor remembered
Brent Devolin, who served two terms as Minden Hills mayor from 2014 to 2022, passed away July 22. His brother, former Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Barry Devolin, said his passing left a hole in the family – and the County. Devolin played a key role in the construction of the new Minden Hills fire hall and S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, while also working with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network to improve cell service in the Highlands.

AUGUST

Closure pending
The Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society announced plans to shutter its branch at 73 Victoria St. in Haliburton, and drop one full-time staff member, although the agency says it will continue to offer its services across the County. The office is slated to close April 1. At the time of the announcement, KHCAS was working with approximately 30 families in Haliburton. In October, the provincial government announced it was appointing a temporary supervisor for the society, saying "we no longer have confidence in the society's ability to address its operational issues and growing deficit."

Girl power
Volunteers with the Highland Storm are trying to tap into the team's history by reviving a dedicated female-only hockey program in Haliburton County. An U13 team consisting of 13 girls between the ages of nine and 12 worked together on-ice for several weeks over the summer, debuting at the prestigious all-female 'Queen of the Rings' tournament in Toronto Aug. 9 to 11. While the appearance was a one-off, coaches Sean and Charlyn Irvine, Noah Adlam and Gavin Simms say they hope to establish permanent teams across various age groups in the future.

Jumping to stardom
Every time Addy Parish runs down the track, then hops, steps and jumps, it feels as if she is flying. The Highlands track and field star won gold in the U16 women's triple jump at the Legional National Youth Track and Field Championships in Calgary Aug. 9 to 11, with a personal best of 11.59 metres. Addy said her passion for the sport started when she was in Grade 3. Now, she dreams of competing for her country at the Olympics.

Half-million raised
The MooseFM Radiothon, benefitting the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, raked in $537,000 to support mammography services at the Haliburton hospital Aug.15 and 16. Foundation lead, Melanie Klodt Wong, said the money helped pay for a new unit for breast cancer screening.

Life at Bonnie View
The iconic Bonnie View Inn, overlooking Lake Kashagawigamog, turned 100 in 2024, with new owners Ryan and Stephanie Yates joining former owner and long-time manager, Andrea Hagarty, in planning a full day of celebratory festivities Sept. 1.

Rockcliffe restoration
Gull Lake's Jim Ecclestone recalls visits to the Rockcliffe when he was in his late teens and early 20s, while his children – twin daughters Laurie and Jamie, and son Matthew – also raised a glass or two at the iconic Minden tavern in the day. The family took ownership of the site in late summer, completing upgrades to the building's façade. Ecclestone said it was premature to say if it would ever return as a tavern, saying the restoration will be a years-long project.

Next week September to December.

Changes in store for Canadian Tire Minden

By Lisa Gervais

The new owner of Canadian Tire in Minden started working with the company as a 17-year-old part-timer in high school. He never left.

Forty-one years later, Scott English is looking forward to taking over a small-town store once again with a focus on connecting with employees and community.

The changeover will take place Feb. 26 with current owner, Terry Gregorini, retiring.

English will be transitioning from Canadian Tire in Ancaster, a 47,000 sq. ft. behemoth in a Hamilton area that features multiple franchises. However, his first dealership was in Deep River, with a population smaller than Minden Hills, and he has owned in Caledonia.

He told *The Highlander*, "you lose connection with the community in a bigger store. You lose connection with your staff. I've always enjoyed the smaller stores."

After Deep River, English went to Kitchener, then Caledonia, then Ancaster.

He and wife, Carrie English, grew up in Mississauga and the couple has a daughter living in Toronto and a son who billets to play hockey with the Cobourg Cougars. "We're empty nesters for the most part," English said in a telephone interview from Ancaster this week. The couple are looking for a home, preferably on a lake or river in Haliburton County.

Not yet ready to retire, English added, "Carrie and I looked at this as an opportunity to get back to a single-store market where everything we do can be a positive and Canadian Tire can mean something to the community."

He said in multi-store markets, even if you sponsor sporting teams or community events, "you're just another retailer… no one really cares" other than those being sponsored.

He noted Gregorini and his franchise have always been community-minded and he would like to keep that tradition alive.

Changes

English said customers will notice changes fairly soon after they take over the store. His Ancaster operations manager, Amanda Walker, will be on the ground while he continues to oversee both Minden and Ancaster until the new franchisee is set up there.

"We're going to make some really neat changes as soon as we get in." For example, they will add electronic sales labels.

Next January they plan to "climatize" the external portion adjacent to the main building with heat for winter and air conditioning in summer.

They'll also be remerchandising. "We are going to merchandise to the market. That store, as small as it is, does extremely well in certain product classes, such as marine and fishing. We'll merchandise accordingly."

He is also planning new décor and colour schemes and new signage.

"It will turn the store into a much better shopping experience, and we'll be able to elevate our product selection, which is a challenge in the small stores," English said.

Scott English at the Canadian Tire in Ancaster. *Submitted*.

"Myself and Amanda are going to have to learn a lot as well because staff have been there a long time and they've operated within those four walls for a long time, and it's entirely different how you operate there than how you operate in a 47,000 sq. ft. store. There are far more challenges, but you can always make change for the better and that's what we plan on doing."

Gregorini says goodbye

Gregorini has been a Canadian Tire dealer for 18 years. When he started, he spent three weeks with English training at his Kitchener store, so the two know each other. He feels he is leaving the store in good hands. "He's a good operator. He'll be good for here."

He said there are aspects of the job he will miss, and others he won't, but "it was time to call it a career after nearly 40 years working."

He is proud of what he accomplished in his time at the helm. "We grew the business quite a bit. I really feel I have some of the best staff in the County. I'm glad the team here was so good and I'm handing it over in good shape. I'm really thankful to the community for supporting us for all this time."

They, too, have supported the community, such as with Jumpstart, in which "hundreds of thousands of dollars have gone back into the community," via food banks and other causes.

Gregorini and his wife welcomed a new grandchild Jan. 1 and plan to travel. "More golf in the summer and get back into the winter sports I used to play."

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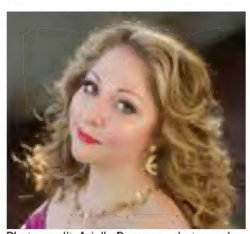
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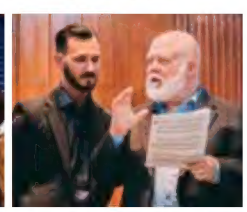

HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO HALIBURTON

Fondation Azrieli Foundation

VANDA TREISER INITIATIVES

Bringing community together through song

By Mike Baker

Highlands Opera Studio (HOS) is embarking on a "daring" new year-long project through 2025 - with lead Valerie Kuinka, inviting the Haliburton County community along for the ride.

'Let's Make an Opera' is a grassroots-level production designed to encourage participation in local theatre, Kuinka said. One of four professional mentors involved, the long-time HOS co-artistic director says the goal is to take three-to-four stories based on life, or experiences, in Haliburton County and spin them into a series of short operatic features.

The project is supported through a $97,400 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

"We want to encourage people who are not familiar with opera to dispel the preconceptions and take a chance to try something new," Kuinka said. "All opera is, is stories supported by music and theatre. So, we are bringing the entire process of creating an opera front and centre to people in Haliburton County."

The first step, Kuinka said, is finding good source material. She's spent the past month gathering stories from the public – everything from historically significant events from the Highlands' past to cute and quirky quips from a memorable weekend at the cottage.

"The idea is the stories will all come from, or feature in some way, Haliburton County. It can be a personal story, or just a random anecdote from life. But it must be told by someone that lives here, and has an experience born here," Kuinka said.

Kuinka's daughter – professional soprano, singer and songwriter, Lauren Margison, is also involved. So, too, composer Danika Lorén and percussionist Michael Murphy. Between them, the quartet have decades of experience performing professionally and know what it takes to put together an impactful show.

Kuinka said she hopes people will come forward to fill a selection of roles – both on-stage and behind the scenes.

Workshops will begin in April, focusing on setting the selected stories to a musical background. Kuinka said each piece will be 15 to 30 minutes long and will boast its own dedicated team.

"We need wordsmiths, musicians, performers, artists to assist with props, people with stage direction experience, set designers," Kuinka said, noting no training is required for most behind-the-scenes roles. To be involved in a performance, she added, "you must be able to sing in tune."

Regular meetings will be held virtually through spring and summer, with a second workshop scheduled for August - with all components coming together for a series of rehearsals.

Kuinka said the idea is to create a heartwarming production for the community, from the community. After spending years supporting and training aspiring musicians through the Highlands Opera Community School and 'Pay What You Can' singing programs, Kuinka said she sees this as another way of giving back – and allowing people the chance to peek behind the curtain.

"This is about the people of Haliburton County owning their story. Opera does not have to be professional singers in a big theatre with a full orchestra in a major city. In fact, it's much more exciting creatively working with smaller operas – this is what we would like to share at home in Haliburton," she said.

Final performances will take place in November at a to-be-determined location.

Anyone wishing to participate can contact Kuinka at valerie@highlandsoperastudio.com.

Fundraising concert

Celebrating its 19th season this summer, HOS is hosting a fundraising concert at Jane Mallett Theatre in downtown Toronto Feb. 9.

The bill features internationally renowned soprano Christine Goerke, mezzo-soprano Simon Genga, tenor Scott Rumble, Samuel Chan and Margison in solos and ensembles from opera, musical, theatre and jazz, accompanied on piano by Timothy Cheung and Vladimir Soloviev.

Kuinka noted reduced holiday pricing for the summer season has been extended until Jan. 31. This year's features include: Richard Margison Masterclass July 29; *From Opera to Broadway* July 31; *Why Choose Opera*

Valerie Kuinka, co-artistic director at Highlands Opera Studio. *File*.

Aug. 5; *Pop Goes the Opera!* Aug. 7; *Casual Song Soirée* Aug. 12; *Orfeo Ed Euridice* Aug. 14; *Music on the Water* Aug. 16; Homecoming: HOS Alumni in Concert Aug. 18; and *The Merry Widow* Aug. 21-25.

Tickets are available through the HOS website.

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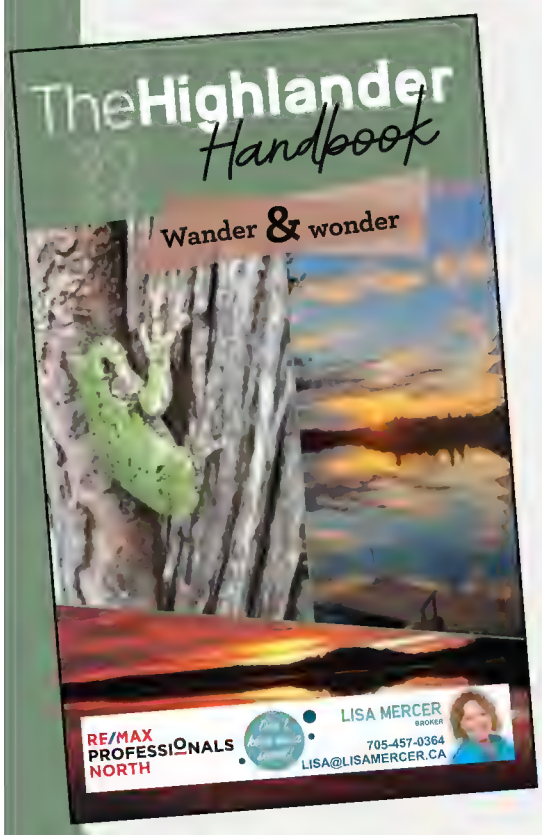

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MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county ...

Dec through Feb 8 Exhibit - André Lapine Hosted at Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden

Jan 22 Open Mic Night - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Algonquin Cookhouse

Jan 25 Robbie Burns Night Hosted at The Haliburton Legion

Jan 25 Canned Laughs - Premium Grade Comedy Live Entertainment - Hosted at Boshkung Social, Minden

Jan 31 Adverse Conditions Live Entertainment - Hosted at Haliburton Legion

Jan 31 Lizeh Live Entertainment - Hosted at Hook, Line & Sinker

Jan 31 Neil Young Legacy Band Live Entertainment - Hosted at Hollow Valley Resort

To see the full listing of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening/

This kid isn't horsing around

By Mike Baker

Tavia Harris completed her second season on the Trillium Hunter Jumper Association circuit last year, with her horse Camero. *File*.

After a 2024 season that saw so many highs, including a top five show finish at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, 16-year-old equestrian Tavia Harris says she's determined to keep progressing as one of the province's top up-and-coming jumpers.

The Minden resident wrapped up her second season on the amateur Trillium Horse Series circuit last year, where she stood out as a top performer in the central east zone.

Riding twice a month in jumping events between April and August, Harris recorded a top seven finish in regional competition alongside her horse Carpincho, a 19-year-old thoroughbred mare. That qualified her for the Trillium Championships, hosted by the Trillium Hunter Jumper Association, which took place in Ottawa in early September.

After another impressive showing there, where Harris competed against equestrians of all ages - some with more than a decade's worth of riding experience - she was invited to participate in the prestigious Provincial Cup. While she fell short of a podium finish, Harris' love for the sport, and connection with her "best friend" Carpincho – or Camero as she's known outside of competition – earned the pair a place at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, held in Toronto in November.

It was a surreal moment for Harris as she got to see things from the other side of the fence, having attended the fair annually for as long as she can remember.

"As far as last year went, I think it was better than I ever could have hoped for," Harris told *The Highlander* in a recent interview. "It's been hard, and a lot of work… but getting to the fair made it all worth it."

While her appearance in the city was for showing, rather than jumping, Harris said it ignited a fire deep within her. She and Carpincho placed fifth in the in-hand and under-saddle class – a "remarkable achievement for a girl who had never really showed before," said mom, Elizabeth Foote.

Later that month, Harris was named co-recipient of the Cassie Bonnar Junior Equestrian of the Year award by the Ontario Equestrian Foundation.

It was the pinnacle of a four-year journey for Harris and her mare, after the pair were first introduced in November 2020. Then 12, Harris had spent years trying to convince her mom to buy her a horse. After relenting, Foote spent months researching for a perfect fit – only for the pair to stumble upon Carpincho, owned by a breeder in Madoc. This was at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their connection was instant, Foote said, with Harris making sure to spend time with her new best friend every day. They found a stable in Highlands East to house her.

"Tav was so committed – it was a difficult relationship at first… Camero had some issues to work through, but that kid sat on a bucket in a field every single day. She showed up over and over and over again," Foote said. "Over time they developed a real trust and before long they were inseparable."

It was months before Harris climbed on Carpincho's back for the first time. Almost completely self-taught via videos on YouTube and guides found online – with only a couple entry-level lessons, Harris had to learn through trial and error as she figured out how to adapt and maneuver her body while in full flight.

An avid hockey player for much of her youth, Harris gave up the sport and almost all her other extra-curriculars so she could dedicate as much time as possible to perfecting her new craft.

"That wasn't too hard – actually, it wasn't hard at all," Harris said. "After creating this incredible bond, I knew [jumping] was all I really wanted to do. The fact we get to spend all this time alone, growing together… it means so much to me."

After jumping two-foot-six-inch hurdles the past two years, Harris said she's planning to go up to three-feet in 2025. She'll do so by once again learning the ropes herself, opting against professional coaching. For her, part of the fun is connecting with her horse and going through new experiences together.

"It almost feels like we're one now whenever I'm riding… but I'm still trying to figure out what the circuit is and how to progress. I just look at all my mistakes from previous rides and try to make sure not to repeat them," Harris said. "I do want to go to the championships again. I'd like to win.

"After performing so well and exceeding anything I thought I'd do these past two years, I just want to see how far I can go, how far Camero can take me," Harris concluded.

Minden Rotary kicked off the New Year Jan. 6 by inducting Jeannine Espie as a new member and honouring Sally Moore with a Polio Plus membership and pin. They had a pasta dinner, Fielding's wine and shared holiday stories. For more information about Minden Rotary visit their website at mindenrotary.ca . Pictured from left to right for the front row: Sally Moore, Jeannine Espie, Jeanne Anthon, Shirley Johannessen, Betty Mark, Sharon Foster. Back: John Kerr, Andy Campbell, Lynda Litwin and Dave Woodcroft. *Submitted.*

Community turns up heat for P4P

Places for People has announced it has surpassed its fundraising goal of $15,000 – generating $17,600 towards a furnace replacement at one of its properties.

"This shows that affordable housing is a priority for our community," P4P said in a news release.

Throughout December, the 'turn up the heat for Places for People' fundraising campaign invited donors to help cover the cost of the furnace and offset the heating costs for all 20 of their affordable housing units. Supporters could purchase a degree or part of a degree.

The campaign was sparked by the urgent need to replace an aging oil furnace at a cost of $8,450. Combined with the heating expenses for units, the total bill last year approached $40,000. While tenants contribute to the costs through rent, Places for People said there is still a significant funding gap.

Looking ahead, the organization said it is excited to announce their annual Sleeping in Cars event, March 21.

Places for People is a charitable organization. They operate entirely through the efforts of volunteers and do it all without government funding. Donations can be made through Canada Helps or Zeffy via their website: placesforpeople.ca For more information, contact: Sherry Lawr Email: sherry@placesforpeople.ca Phone: 416-888-3867. *(Lisa Gervais).*

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Red Hawks swoop all over Falcons

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School boys' basketball program is trending strong again this year. On Jan. 9, the juniors and seniors hosted Fenelon Falls in the school gym. The juniors came up with an impressive 54-33 win. The seniors followed up with a 52-37 victory. As of Jan. 14, the seniors were first place in the Kawartha Senior Boys Basketball west division with a record of three wins, and one loss, for six points. The juniors were in third in the west, with three wins, two losses, for six points.

Juniors: Top left: Carlito Barbosa enters the offensive zone. Middle: Ryan Teel brings the basketball up court. Right: Isaac Borgdorff fights off a Fenelon defender. Seniors: Above left: Kadin Card rushes the Fenelon defence. Middle: The Hawks seniors huddle up. Right: Cole Hamilton dribbles up court. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Dressed to impress...

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School held a New Year's gala semi-formal at the school Jan. 10. Students came dressed to impress for the dance, kicking off the 2025 school year in fine style. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Top left: Carter Shaw, Ayden Gardiner and Jacob Sutton pose for the camera. Top right: Jaylynn Bull and Rylan Sisson show everyone how it's done. Above: Ruby Morrison and Evan Jones smile for the snap. Middle right: Skye Knight and Gracie Griffith prove they are not camera shy. Right: Teagan Hamilton, Emery Bagshaw and Alissa Mantle have a great time at the dance. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

STARS of the WEEK

KIPTON CUNNNINGHAM

Kipton is a key player and executes every shift with heart and grit and with a team mentality. He is a leader on our team on and off the ice, always.

BEN GAFFNEY

Ben has a special skill for reading the play and ensuring he is well positioned in the defending zone. Ben also has the ability to quickly transition to be where needed to strengthen the team, making him a key player every shift.

SAWYER WILLIS

Sawyer is a core asset with a positive attitude, desire to win, and outstanding skill. He always brings his best to every game and never gives up, no matter the outcome of the game. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*

U9s hit full ice

The Highland Storm U9MD Haliburton Hockey Haven team took to the ice this past weekend - hosting the annual Walt McKechnie U9 Tournament.

This is the first time the team has played a full ice game this season and our players did not disappoint.

The Storm had their work cut out for them facing off against the Drayton Defenders. Despite a hard-fought battle and outstanding game by our whole team, the Storm wasn't able to clinch a win.

This didn't slow the Storm down, though. They came back for their second and third game of the day with a tie and a win. A focus on passing, team playing, and their strong desire to win led to our success on the first day of the tournament.

Back on the ice bright and early on Sunday, the Storm were back in for the silver semi-final. Defence was strong and the majority of the game was played in the opposing end. Though the Storm rallied hard, outshooting the Lindsay Muskies, we faced a hard 3-1 loss.

Though we didn't come home with a medal, the U9MD played hard, learned, and most importantly, had lots of fun.

Looking forward to starting the second half of our season with this strong team momentum. *(Submitted).*

An U9MD player heads up ice.
Photo by Justin Belanger.

SCORE BOARD

Jan. 7
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 2-2 T

Jan. 8
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak House vs Kawartha 7-5 W

Jan. 9
- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Muskies 11-2 W

Jan. 10
- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Brock 5-1 L
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Kawartha 6-2 L

Jan. 12
- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Brock 4-4 T
- U13 LL Casey's Wells & Geothermal Inc vs Muskies 3-3 T
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 1-1 T

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Huskies in it to win it as playoffs loom

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies co-captain Raine Nadeau said he can't wait to take to the ice in Friday's 'Battle of Hwy. 35' in Lindsay as he and his teammates seek to get back on track following a dismal 6-1 defeat to the Toronto Jr. Canadiens Jan. 11

The blue and white were second best from the first whistle to the final buzzer last Saturday, in front of 525 fans at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. It was the team's first regulation defeat in five games.

Despite icing a collection of new names, including major junior imports Chase Lefebvre, from the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) Peterborough Petes, and Nolan Ling, acquired from Gatineau Olympiques of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL), the Huskies were rolled over, outshot 44 to 32.

"I think we beat ourselves – too many little breakdowns," Nadeau told *The Highlander*. "We do pre-scouting on all our opponents, and I just don't think we stuck to our gameplan of how to beat them. It was a bit of a wake-up call, but no need to panic or really worry. We know how we can perform and that we're a top team."

Deandres De Jesus had the Huskies lone tally, potting his 22nd goal of the season late in the first period, assisted by Nathan Poole and Ty Petrou. The home side had already shipped two goals earlier in the period and gave up three more in the second and one in the third. Starting netminder, Tyler Hodges, was pulled following the sixth goal having made 31 saves on 37 shots.

It's been a good week of practice for the team, said Nadeau, with everyone laser-focused for this weekend's matchups against the Muskies and Wellington Dukes. It's a tale of two tapes thus far this year, with the Huskies 2-0 over the Muskies, but winless against the Dukes.

"Two big games, but at this stage of the season every game is a big game," Nadeau said. "Wellington have had our number a little bit this year, but we're confident in what we have in the room. We just have to stick to what we've been doing, what's made us successful this year, and see where that takes us."

Defenceman Curtin Allen stick handles the puck in a 6-1 loss to the Toronto Jr. Canadiens Jan. 11. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

With such a shift in team dynamic ahead of the trade deadline – the Huskies added eight new faces since Dec. 20 – Nadeau said there's been a buzz at the rink every day. The group held a team dinner to welcome the fresh arrivals, with Nadeau excited to see the franchise go all-in for a playoff push.

In Lefebvre and forward Tai York, who has 11 points in seven games since joining from the United States Hockey League's Sioux Falls Stampede, he feels the Huskies have added a couple of guys with top-of-the-line skills and experience.

"Tai played four years in the OHL [with the Barrie Colts] and Chase was with the Petes for a couple seasons. You can see on the ice how much they stand out with their hockey IQ and the plays they can make. They make us a more dangerous team for sure," Nadeau said.

Huskies 5-2 Stouffville

With roster moves made earlier in the day, a depleted Huskies outfit ran away with a 5-2 win over the Stouffville Spirit Jan. 9.

The home side took a shock lead five minutes into the opening period, but York tied things 41 seconds in the middle frame, assisted by Luke Hampel and Petrou. Cameron Hankai, Alex Bradshaw and Petrou added further markers in the second, with Bradshaw finishing the scoring 6:43 into the third.

Goaltender Stephen Toltl earned his first win with the blue and white, making 21 saves.

Puck drop in Lindsay on Friday is 7 p.m., with the home encounter against the Dukes starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

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HSAD launches March break courses

The Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD) said it is "thrilled" to announce a groundbreaking new addition to its programming: March break courses.

For the first time in its history, HSAD is opening its doors during March break, offering "dynamic and creative" courses for kids, youth, and adults from March 10-14 at its Haliburton campus, the college said.

They added, "this inaugural lineup is designed to inspire creativity and provide hands-on artistic experiences for all ages and includes: kids' art camp: wild about clay (ages five to nine and costing $343.53) with Isabel Neveu-Geene; youth art camp: artful explorations (ages 10-13 and costing $328.75) with Kelly Albin; youth/teen quilting basics (ages 10-17 and costing $328.75) with Jan Anderson, and painting the winter landscape (adults 17-plus) with Martha Johnson ($494.01).

Erin Lynch, operations and continuing education program manager, said, "for years, our community has embraced HSAD's summer and fall courses, and now, as part of expanding our continuing education programming year-round, we're proud to offer March break courses.

"This is an incredible opportunity for families and individuals to connect with the arts during a time of year when creative outlets are especially welcome," she added.

The college noted 'kids' art camp - wild about clay' is for beginners with little to no previous skill or knowledge. Students will explore a variety of hand-building techniques, such as pinching, coiling, and slab work.

'Youth art camp – artful explorations' welcome all levels. This course will utilize various art forms and explore a variety of tools and artmaking techniques. On the last day, there will be an art show.

'Youth/teen quilting basics' is also open to all levels. Students will explore various methods used to create fibre art pieces, such as quilts, wall hangings, rugs, placemats and pillows. A small quilt and placemat will be constructed and completed during the week. Students are asked to bring a familiar and reliable sewing machine in good working order to class.

Classes will run daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Haliburton Campus, at 297 College Dr.

Visit hsad.ca to register and learn more. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Erin Lynch is looking forward to HSADs first-ever March break programing. *File.*

Lightfoot to help folk society kick off new year

Terra Lightfoot is coming back to the Highlands, kicking off the Haliburton County Folk Society's 2025 season.

Lightfoot and her trio are performing at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton Feb. 1. Her concerts in 2023 and 2024 sold out.

Sue Shikaze, artistic director for the Haliburton County Folk Society, said, "we're excited to welcome back Terra and her trio to generate some warm vibes in the cold of winter."

On her Instagram feed, Lightfoot said her annual hometown concert was one of her 2024 highlights.

The Folk Society added Lightfoot has a multi-octave mezzo-soprano singing voice that has been compared to that of Joan Jett and Dusty Springfield, noting her electric guitar style is gutsy and mesmerizing.

"Her songs can be described as bluesy-rock power ballads. She has four studio albums to her credit, along with Polaris Prize and Juno award nominations. Her 2023 album *Healing Power* was a longlisted nominee for the 2024 Polaris Music Prize," they said.

Melissa Payne will open. Originally rooted in old-time fiddle and traditional Celtic music, Payne has now blossomed into a successful solo artist with three full-length albums. Her live performances have garnered critical acclaim, and she has had the privilege of collaborating with some of Canada's biggest names in music, including Blue Rodeo's Greg Keelor, Matt Mays, Natalie MacMaster, and Jimmy Bowskill.

Tickets at terralightfoot.com. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Minden Agricultural Society

The MAS sponsors of the Haliburton County Fair is holding their AGM on

Saturday, January 18, 2025

at the Minden Lions Hall, 166 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden.

Refreshments at 12:30
Meeting at 1:00

New directors welcome

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Canoe FM Begins On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario.**

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025.**

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any **comments or concerns,** please reach out to us by:

Email: manager@canoefm.com

Phone: 705-457-1009

After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County.

Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

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The Voice of the Haliburton Highlands

CANOE 100.9 FM

www.canoefm.com

EVENTS

Jan. 18, 2 to 4 p.m.
Youth Unlimited's Bridge Youth Centre is hosting an open house at its location at 2 Victoria Street. Please park at Rotary Park parking lot so accessible parking is available for those who need it. All are welcome.

Jan. 20, 7 p.m.
The Wilberforce Heritage Guild invites you to attend its 2025 annual meeting at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Historic House Museum, located at 2314 Loop Rd. Everyone welcome. For more information, contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca.

Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
Join child, youth and family therapists Rachelle Stephens and Shannon Norris, of Point in Time, for a conversation focused on ideas of good practice, guidance and available resources for parents. Taking place in the Schofield Room at the Haliburton Legion. There will be live music performed by the Porter Brothers. Sponsored by the Baha'is of Haliburton. Open to all, no admission charge, light refreshments provided.

Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization is hosting a virtual seminar over Zoom, featuring guest speaker Jordan McDonald, who will be speaking about aquatic invasive species. Register at lko.ca.

Jan. 26
The Haliburton Legion is hosting a seminar for veterans, spouses and family members to inform them of the range of benefits they may be entitled to. RSVP by contacting the Legion directly at 705-457-2571 or Nick Bryant at 613-255-3473. There will be one-on-one meetings, a question period, and light lunch served. Doors open at 10, with the seminar beginning at 11.

Jan. 31, 6 to 11 p.m.
The Haliburton Legion is hosting a New Year fundraiser, with all proceeds going to its lift project. Live music by Adverse Conditions, dinner is chili and a roll with a dessert. Tickets are $30 available in the Legion clubroom (705-457-2571), or by contacting one of the band members.

Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

Haliburton Highlands Writers and editors Network. Meet on the third Thursday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635.

Join the Haliburton County Public Library for family story time, weekly from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Minden library and Thursdays at the Dysart library. Appropriate for children up to the age of six. Must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
Email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a $1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets $1 each, available in the Clubroom.
Clubroom hours: Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. $15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mon: 7 to 10 p.m.
Wed: 2 to 6 p.m.
Thurs: 2 to 10 p.m.
Fri: 2 to 11 p.m.
Sat: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sun: Special events only

Cornhole on Jan. 16, 23 and 30 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per player.

Wings and jam session Jan. 17 and 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Meat draw Jan. 18 and 25 at 3 p.m.

Darts Jan. 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per player.

Seniors 55+ lunch Jan. 21 at noon. Cost is $15 per person.

Karaoke Jan. 18 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Food will be provided.

Spaghetti dinner Jan. 24 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

Pat and Phyllis Memorial Ice Fishing Derby Jan. 25. Weigh in is 3 p.m. Registration is $20 per person. Call for legion at 705-448-2221 for more information.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

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NOTICES

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

John Allen Middleton

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of John Allen Middleton, who left this world peacefully on January 8, 2025, at the age of 81 at his home on Little Kennisis Lake, Haliburton. Born in Toronto, John was the cherished son of the late Victor and Jean Middleton. From an early age, he was surrounded by the values that would define his life: an unwavering love for family, a genuine kindness for others, and a profound understanding of what it means to truly give of oneself.

John's life was one of quiet strength and purposeful action with understated humour. His passions reached far beyond his professional life. Haliburton became the canvas for his love of the arts, where he cultivated a deep connection to pottery that spanned decades, creating beauty with his hands and sharing his creations with the community he adored. His love of orchids is evident in the numerous plants he continues to baby. Service to others was at the heart of who John was. Whether volunteering on the Fleming College board, supporting the Fleming School of the Arts, contributing to the Kennisis Lake Roads Committee, or lending his time and energy to service work in Guatemala, John's life was a testament to the impact of selflessness and care.

Above all, John was a family man. His life's legacy is one of love, kindness, and the deep connections he built with those around him. He leaves behind his devoted wife, Joan Middleton, whose partnership was a cornerstone of his life for 53 years. He will be forever loved and remembered by his daughter, Jean-Anne (Mike), and his treasured grandchildren Joseph and Riley. John was preceded in death by his beloved son Jeremy Middleton (2024) and grandfather to his girls Brianna Clark (Johnny Clark, great grandchild Jeremiah) and Meghan Chatterton. Cherished brother of Don (Maureen), sister-in-law Catherine (John), and brother-in-law Bill (Debbie). He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, their children, and dear friends who were touched by his warmth and generosity.

John attended Leaside High School and Ryerson Polytechnical University before joining IBM where he devoted 30 years followed by 10 years at Airmiles. Embodying dedication and diligence and many long-term friends. His many interests included pottery, orchids, gardening, and great travel adventures with his friends and his dogs who are missing him terribly. John will be deeply missed, but his legacy of compassion, service, and unwavering love will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was a guiding light, and his memory will remain a beacon of inspiration for years to come.

Remembrance Gathering

A celebration of life and remembrance gathering will be held on February 1 from 1-3 at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM**, 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario. Family and friends are warmly invited to come together to share memories and reflect on a life so beautifully lived. As an expression of sympathy, the family kindly requests donations be made to SIRCH, El Amor De Patricia Children's Home - Guatemala, or One Way Community - Guatemala. All of which were charities close to John's heart. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

Marjorie "Eleanor" Irwin (nee Gray)

Dr. Marjorie Eleanor Irwin (née Gray), a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and respected scholar, died gratefully and was embraced by the arms of her loving Saviour on Thursday morning, January 9, 2025, at the age of 87. Born on April 29, 1937, in Toronto, Eleanor was the daughter of Joseph Everard Gray and Gladys Malcolm. She was predeceased by her brother Malcolm (1929), her sister Dr. Marion Powell (1997) (Rev. Donald Powell), and her brother Dr. Gordon Gray (2023) (Mary Locke).

Eleanor's life was defined by her deep love for family, her passion for Classical Studies, and her dedication to education. She was the cherished wife of Dr. John Wesley Irwin for 63 years, a partnership built on mutual respect, love, and shared intellectual curiosity. Together, they raised four children: Dr. John Joseph Irwin (Olesia, San Francisco), Marjorie Elizabeth Robertson (Dr. Bruce Robertson, Sackville, NB), Peter David Gordon Irwin (Sackville, NB), and Dr. Andrew James Gray Irwin (Dr. Zoe Finkel, Halifax), all of whom carry forward her legacy of curiosity, learning, and compassion.

Eleanor was the proud grandmother of Raphael and Gabriel Irwin (Köln, Germany), Dr. Phoebe Robertson (Russellville, Arkansas), and Joel Robertson (Lia, Toronto). Her grandchildren brought her great joy, and she cherished each moment spent with them.

A dedicated academic, Eleanor joined the faculty at the University of Toronto Scarborough in 1969, where she made significant contributions to the field of Classical Studies. Her research focused on colour terms and plant names in Classical Greek poetry, as well as the careers of Classicists, with a particular interest in the often-overlooked contributions of women in the field. Her work was widely recognized, earning her the prestigious Ralph Campbell Award twice (1984 and 2015), as well as a University of Toronto Arbor Award in 2013.

Beyond her scholarly pursuits, Eleanor was an avid gardener, finding solace and inspiration in her flowers and plants. She also enjoyed preaching occasionally and played the electric organ for services at St. Peter's Maple Lake, where her quiet yet steadfast faith shone through in every note she played.

Eleanor's warmth, intellect, and unwavering commitment to family and community will be deeply missed. She leaves behind a lasting legacy in both her academic contributions and the love she cultivated within her family.

Visitation & Funeral Service

A Funeral Service to celebrate her life and legacy will be held at the Family Residence on Friday at 12 noon, January 17, 2025. (Visitation one hour prior). A Memorial Service will take place at a later date in Toronto. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at ivcf.ca,1 International Boulevard, Toronto, ON M9W 6H3 would be greatly appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Caroline Ann French

Caroline passed peacefully, at the Haliburton Hospital, on December 6th, 2024, surrounded by family. Our tremendous grief at her loss is tempered by the knowledge that she's no longer in pain. Cherished wife to Murray for a not-long-enough 43 years.

A very special thank you to Dr. Bryan Armstrong and all the doctors, nurses, and staff, particularly the team at the Palliative Care Unit, for caring for her. and about her, everyone was helpful and compassionate.

Caroline and I spent many, many great years together with family and friends at our cottage on Big Bob Lake, Minden, or skiing in winter and lots of trips the Caribbean and Mexico. We enjoyed many road trips to the US, Maritimes and Newfoundland, a cruise to Alaska and a few winters in Florida. A lot of fun together!

Caroline will be missed by her special friend Marcia, who gave her love and support to her over the years. They were enjoying a girls night out when I met her.

Caroline French crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on December 6, 2024, reuniting with our beloved dogs, Mitzi, Jake, Molly, Dusty and Rylee (still here and missing her). One of my fondest memories was when she went to town and came back with a kitten, she named Lisa. She provided a safe home to many furry friends over the decades.

For many years Caroline worked as an Executive Secretary. In 1994 we quit our jobs, sold our house and moved to Haliburton permanently. She found us a wonderful home, across the road from a small lake, and we bought a local business. We ran the company for many years, together as supportive partners and retired 15 years ago.

Predeceased by her parents, Frank and Helen, and her son Robert "Bobby" Weir. She will be dearly missed by our family and many friends.

Caroline has been cremated and will be interred at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton, in the spring. A celebration of Caroline's life will also be held, in the spring, in our backyard where she loved to watch deer crossing our property regularly.

As I signed every card:
All My Love Always
Murray
xoxo

WILLIAM DOUGLAS EASTMAN

DIED JANUARY 8, 2024

Gone, but not forgotten, one year later without you dad and the pain of losing you is still fresh. We hold onto our cherished memories and the love you gave us, you will always be in our hearts and minds forever.

Karen and Cindy and families

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1 M	2 C	3 C	4 O	5 Y	6 S	■	7 V	8 I	9 P	■	10 I	11 T	12 T	13 O
14 M	O	O	L	A	H	■	15 E	M	U	■	16 C	A	R	R
17 L	O	R	D	N	E	18 L	S	O	N	■	19 I	K	E	A
20 I	P	A	■	■	21 R	I	P	■	■	22 S	C	E	N	T
■	■	23 L	24 A	25 D	Y	M	A	26 R	27 M	A	L	A	D	E
■	■	■	28 R	O	L	O	■	29 C	O	W	E	R	■	■
30 A	31 L	32 I	G	N	■	■	33 L	A	M	B	■	34 I	35 L	36 E
37 D	U	C	H	E	38 S	39 S	O	F	S	U	40 S	S	E	X
41 A	G	E	■	42 G	E	L	S	■	■	43 C	O	K	E	S
■	■	44 S	45 T	O	L	E	■	46 A	47 O	K	S	■	■	■
48 D	49 U	K	E	O	F	W	50 I	N	D	S	O	51 R	■	■
52 U	P	A	N	D	■	■	53 M	O	E	■	■	54 U	55 S	56 B
57 T	O	T	E	■	58 C	59 O	U	N	T	60 B	61 A	S	I	E
62 C	N	E	T	■	63 I	M	S	■	64 T	A	T	T	L	E
65 H	E	R	S	■	66 S	G	T	■	67 E	A	S	Y	O	N

SOLUTIONS FOR JANUARY 9

1 A	2 P	3 E	4 M	5 A	6 N	■	7 D	8 U	9 P	10 E	■	11 I	12 H	13 N
14 N	A	R	I	T	A	■	15 H	A	R	M	16 S	W	A	Y
17 T	R	A	S	H	C	18 O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	S
19 I	T	S	C	O	L	D	■	■	20 B	E	A	N	I	E
21 S	E	E	U	M	■	22 I	23 F	24 F	I	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	25 D	E	E	26 P	S	E	A	D	I	V	27 E	28 R	29 S
■	■	■	■	■	30 A	T	W	T	■	31 N	E	V	E	R
32 C	33 L	34 A	35 S	36 S	Y	■	■	■	37 O	G	D	E	N	S
38 N	O	T	I	P	■	39 A	40 B	41 U	T	■	■	■	■	■
42 E	X	O	T	I	43 C	D	A	N	C	44 E	45 R	46 S	■	■
■	■	■	47 U	T	T	E	R	S	■	48 S	E	A	49 L	50 A
51 C	52 H	53 E	A	T	S	■	■	■	54 E	55 M	P	T	I	E	S
56 H	O	R	T	I	C	57 U	58 L	T	U	R	I	S	T	S
59 A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E	■	60 S	I	M	O	N	E
61 R	Y	E	■	62 G	N	A	T	■	63 S	T	E	N	O	S

2	5	8	7	4	3	1	6	9
7	1	9	5	6	8	3	2	4
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9	8	3	6	2	5	7	4	1
6	2	1	8	7	4	9	5	3
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8	9	2	3	5	6	4	1	7
5	4	7	1	9	2	8	3	6
1	3	6	4	8	7	2	9	5

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BROTHER

ROBERT MADILL

who passed away January 9, 2024

Until we meet again,
the special memories of you will always bring a smile.

If only we could have you back for just a little while.

Then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do.

You always meant so very much and always will and do too.

The fact that you're no longer here will always cause us pain.

But you're forever in our hearts, until we meet again.

Sadly missed and forever loved,

Susan & Calvin, Ken & Beth, Brian & Darlene, Glen & Shirley, Marlene & Families

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The Mechanic/Fleet Coordinator is responsible for general control over specifications, inspections, repairs, trouble shooting, maintenance and servicing all County Public Works vehicles and equipment. This position plans and schedules preventative maintenance, maintains inventory and records, and provides guidance to others.

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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

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Bookkeeping:
- Maintaining accurate financial records, including income, expenses, and transaction details
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- Coordinate with external accountants or auditors as needed

Qualifications:
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- Please send your resume and a brief cover letter explaining why you are a good fit for this position to admin@haliburtongoldgroup.com
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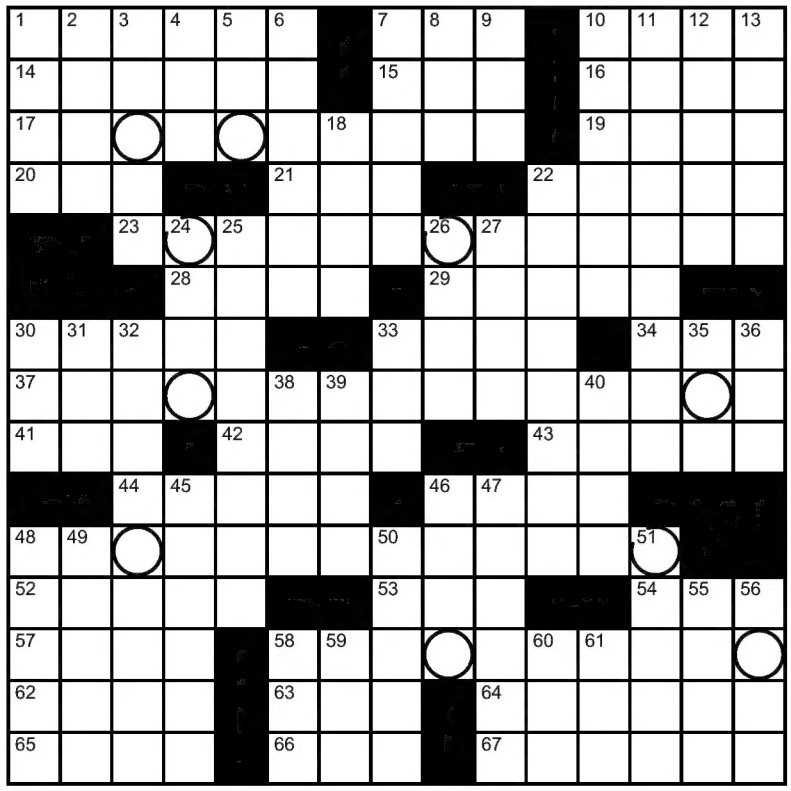

Across

1 Hatfields' foes
7 Backstage pass holder, say
10 TV's "Leave ___ Beaver"
14 Green, cheddar, dough, etc.
15 Cassowary kin
16 "The Big Raven" painter Emily ___
17 War hero whose statue is in Trafalgar Square [radon]
19 Company named for its founder's initials and home town
20 Hoppy brew, briefly
21 Passing letters?
22 Potpourri emission
23 Hit from "Moulin Rouge!" [argon]
28 Caramel-filled chocolate
29 Shrink in fear
30 Be in sync (with), as views
33 Poet Charles
34 Land in l'eau?
37 Meghan Markle's title [helium]
41 Tree ring indicator
42 Salon products that lock locks
43 Some cocktail mixers
44 Took badly?
46 Thumbs-ups
48 Monarch who abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson [krypton]
52 ___ about (out of bed)
53 Target of Bart's crank calls
54 Memory stick port
57 Overhead bin item
58 Jazz pianist and bandleader [neon]
62 Techie website
63 Uses Facebook Chat
64 Be a snitch
65 That girl's
66 Certain NCO
67 Adele's "___ Me", 2021

Down

1 Caesar's 2051
2 Farm house with layers
3 Pinkish-orange hue
4 "Same ___, same ..."
5 "Wok with ___" ('70s cooking show)
6 Singer Crow
7 Italian scooter
8 Texter's viewpoint intro
9 The lowest form of humour, it is said
10 Wintery eave clinger
11 Leave to chance
12 Pollster's observation, say
13 Wax poetic
18 Long ride?
22 Ten-dollar bills, in slang
24 Hair-tearer's cry
25 Performed well, ungrammatically
26 Snowbirds mil. group
27 Ones served breakfast in bed in mid-May, maybe
30 Mute girl in "The Piano"
31 Cart with difficulty
32 Winter commuter on Rideau Canal
33 Lead-in to Angeles or Alamos
35 Levi's rival
36 Strait's "All My ___ Live in Texas"
38 Egoist's concern
39 Whole whack
40 Not good, not bad
45 Fundamental beliefs
46 Poetic "soon"
47 White swan in "Swan Lake"
48 Go ___ (split the bill)
49 Winning by a point
50 "It's my duty"
51 Out of practice
55 Fodder tower
56 "Where have you ___?!"
58 Non LGBT, for short
59 Wide-eyed emoji
60 Ewe said it
61 Email address symbols

Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association
Fish Hatchery
RAINBOW TROUT FOR SALE
Spring is around the corner, and starting April 1, there will be a limited number of 8" rainbows available @$2.50 each.
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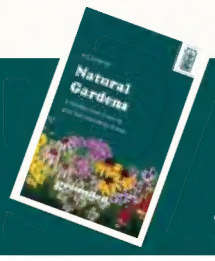

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000

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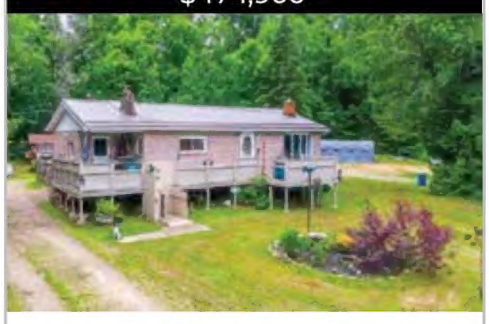
$474,900



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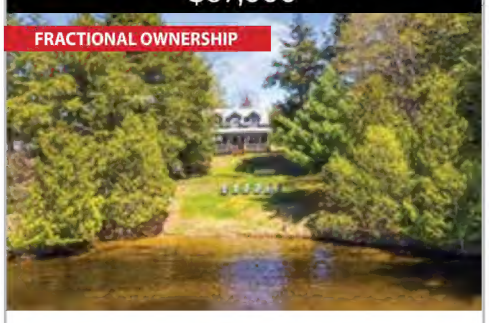
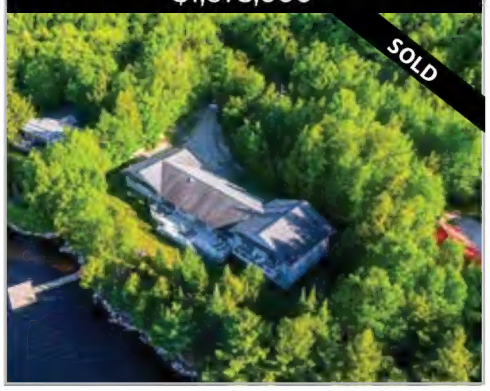
$67,000



MLS X11884689

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,675,000



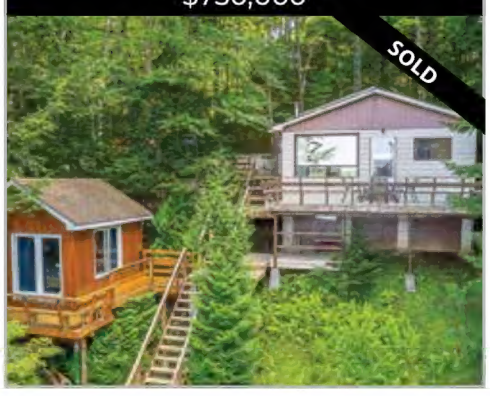
SOYERS LAKE
$1,295,000

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000



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MLS X10437518
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$109,000
2.19 Acres

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MLS X10899857
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